



1 IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

2 Applicant: D.A. Burke Attorney Docket No. WEEI19402

3 Serial No: 08/632,022 Group Art Unit: 1308

4 Filed: April 15, 1996 Examiner: Neil McCarthy

5 Title: ANAEROBIC TREATMENT PROCESS FOR THE RAPID HYDROLYSIS AND
6 CONVERSION OF ORGANIC MATERIALS TO SOLUBLE AND GASEOUS
COMPONENTS

7 RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S ACTION MAILED OCTOBER 15, 1996

8 Seattle, Washington 98101
9 January 10, 1997

10 TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

11 Responsive to the Examiner's Action mailed October 15, 1996, applicant respectfully requests
12 entry of the amendment set forth below and reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks
13 that follow.

14 AMENDMENTS

15 In the Claims:

16 1. (Amended) An anaerobic treatment process for the conversion of organic material to
17 soluble and gaseous components comprising the steps:

18 contacting in a first anaerobic reactor, an influent stream containing the organic material with
19 active anaerobic bacteria [from an anaerobic reactor] recycled from a second reactor;

20 maintaining the organic material in contact with the anaerobic bacteria for a predetermined
21 period to partially digest the organic material;

22 mechanically or chemically separating suspended colloidal constituents and particulate
23 constituents from the partially digested influent stream; and

24 delivering the separated suspended colloidal constituents and particulate constituents to the
25 second anaerobic reactor for further digestion of organic material.